

# ARIZONA CHAMPION.

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## LAND TITLES.

Settlers Must File on Their Land at Once—Possession will not Protect Them.

The Florence Enterprise has repeatedly advised settlers upon lands in that county to lose no time in filing on their lands, as simple possession would not protect them in their rights. The first man on record in the land office will hold the land, even though another person had been in possession of and living upon it for a lifetime. To convince our readers that we have stated this matter correctly we reproduce below a letter from the Land Commissioner at Washington to Governor Ross, of New Mexico, citing the law on the subject. We also print in this connection the section of the United States statutes governing the matter. This is a matter of great importance to our people and we hope they will read the letter and law carefully and act at once, to make their rights secure:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 14, '85.

Governor E. G. Ross, Santa Fe, New Mexico.—Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, inclosing a letter addressed to you by Mr. W. S. Burke, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Bernalillo county, N. M., suggesting that you procure an order from this office to the effect that a filing upon public land in the local land office does not give right of possession where the land is claimed by others until the question of title is properly determined. The reason for this request is that native inhabitants who have been long in possession are now ousted from their homes by persons who are permitted by the local land office to make filings for the lands occupied by them, thus causing much trouble, and frequently crime and bloodshed. You state that the matter is a fruitful source of mischief in the territory; that the class of holdings spoken of as being infringed upon are those of Mexicans which have been occupied and held by undisputed possession for generations; that not being required to fence their holdings, or otherwise mark their boundaries and cultivating but portions of the land, leaving the remainder for grazing purposes, it is often the case that intruders have filed upon those portions kept for grazing, sometimes even upon the entire farm, knowing it to be occupied, but expecting to hold it against the actual occupant simply because, through ignorance of our system of land titles, that occupant has failed to have his claims recorded in the district land office. You are informed that I have no power to make the order requested. The only way that inhabitants of land can be protected is by making their claims known to the United States Land Office. Intruders will not be permitted to make entries of land against the rights of actual occupants, if such inhabitancy is known. But it cannot be known unless the occupants of the land themselves assert their claims in the manner provided by the laws of the United States. When this is done their entries secure their possessory rights and prevent other entries being made of the same lands. Where several persons are residing and have improvements on a tract of land upon which they had settled before the survey of the land by the United States, they can make joint entry for not exceeding 160 acres under section 2274, United States Revised Statutes.

I respectfully suggest that the executive of New Mexico might, by proper proclamation or other official information, advise the native inhabitants of their rights under the laws of the United States and the necessity of filing their claims in the United States Land Office.

Very Respectfully,

WILLIAM WALKER, Acting Commissioner.

The following is section 2274 referred to in the foregoing communication:

Sec. 2274. When settlements have been made upon agricultural lands of the United States, prior to the survey thereof, and it has been or shall be ascertained, after the public surveys have been extended over such lands, that two or more settlers have improvements upon the same legal subdivision, it shall be lawful for such settlers to make joint entry of their lands at the local land office, or either of said settlers to enter into contract with his co-settlers, to convey to them their portion of said land at

ter a patent is issued to him, and, after making said contract, to file a declaratory statement in his own name, and prove up and pay for said lands and proof of joint occupation by himself and others, and such contract with them made shall be equivalent to proof of sale, occupation and pre-emption by the applicant; provided that in no case shall the amount patented under this section exceed 160 acres, nor shall this section apply to lands not subject to homestead or pre-emption notice.

Daniel Webster's Peroration.

Unhappy Europe! the judgment of God rests hard upon thee. Thy sufferings deserve an angel's pity, if an angel's tears could wash away thy crime! The eastern continent seems trembling on the brink of some great catastrophe. Convulsions shake and terrors alarm it. Ancient systems are falling, works reared by ages are tumbling into atoms. Let us humbly implore heaven that the wide-spread desolation may never reach the shores of our land, but let us devoutly make up our minds to do our duty in events that may happen to us. Let us cherish genuine patriotism. In that there is a sort of inspiration that gives strength and energy almost more than human. When the mind is attached to a great object, it grows to the magnitude of its understanding. A true patriot, with his eye and his heart on honor and happiness of his country, hath an elevation of soul that lifts him above the rank of ordinary men. To common occurrences he is indifferent. Personal considerations dwindle into nothing, in comparison with his high sense of public duty. In all the vicissitudes of fortune he leans with pleasure on the protection of Providence and on the dignity and composure of his own mind. While his country enjoys peace he rejoices and is thankful; and if it be in the counsel of heaven to send the storm and the tempest, his bosom proudly sweats against the rage that assaults it. Above fear, above danger, he feels that the last end which can happen to any man never comes too soon if he fails in defense of the laws and liberties of his country.—Delivered in 1802, at the age of 20.

Do Not Want Mormons.

Advices from El Paso state that Brigham Young the second, and his associate Mormon leaders, who are enthusiastic over the establishment of colonies of Latter Day Saints in Mexico, which will be allowed greater license than in the United States, are probably doomed to disappointment. The success and influence of the Saints already planted in that country are causing wide-spread alarm. The provincial papers, besides the Financier and other leading journals in the City of Mexico, are violently demanding their expulsion, and the prohibiting of others from entering the republic. The papers represent that if the Mormons are too filthy in their practices for the United States, Mexico will not be able to endure them. The priests of the Catholic Church are also doing gallant service in the crusade, and the chief Mormon elder and his followers, when they arrive in the winter, will be astonished at the change that has taken place in public sentiment.

Good for the Child.

The ailments of childhood need careful attention and wise treatment. Some people think "anything is good enough for a child, and there isn't much the matter with it anyhow." But judicious mothers know better, and do as Mrs. H. W. Perry, of Richmond, Va., does. She says: "I take Brown's Iron Bitters and give it to my children with the most satisfactory results." Sold everywhere.

The application of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad Company, which has lately purchased the Mojave division of the Southern Pacific road, for an indemnity grant of odd sections of land along its proposed line through California, has been denied by the Land Office at San Francisco. The grant was asked under the Congressional act approved July 29, 1866, entitled "An act granting land to aid in the construction of a railroad an telegraph line from the states of Missouri and Arkansas to the Pacific coast." The application was denied on the grounds that it is not in conformity to department regulations, and that the road had not been built within the specified time.

## MURDERED FORTY MEN.

The Lee Brothers, Texas Outlaws, Shot Down by Officers.

A Gainesville, Tex., special says: Monday night about 12 o'clock a wagon arrived in the city, carrying the dead bodies of Jim and "Pink" Lee, noted desperadoes and outlaws, who for two years past have been the terror to the people of D. T. toward Bond. The three Lee boys and a ranchman, in April, while John and Henry Ray, two respectable cattle-owners of that county, with two officers, one of whom was a deputy United States marshal, were on a searching expedition in the Chickasaw nation for cattle bearing the Raff brothers brand the came upon the stronghold of the Lee gang and bravely approached the stockade to arrest the cattle thieves. The desperadoes opened fire through portholes of their fortifications, killing both the Ruffs and the two officers, whose bodies lay exposed several days, and were partially eaten by hogs since the massacre large rewards have been offered for the Lee brothers, dead or alive. Monday, Detective Hack Thomas, of Ft. Worth, learned that the Lee boys were somewhere in the vicinity of Dexter, a small village of the county. Taking two horse officers named Joseph Taylor and James Settle with him, they started out in search of the desperadoes. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon they came upon the outlaws on John Washington's ranch, where they were cutting a pasture fence. The officers dismounted and crept to within forty yards of the unconscious Lee brothers and ordered them to surrender. The outlaws fired on the officers for an answer, and the latter opened fire with Winchesters, killing Pink Lee on the first volley, and wounding Jim in the neck. Jim fell but continued to fire as many as ten shots at the officers before he was killed. Jim and Bill Lee were leaders of a gang of about 20 thieves. In the past two years they are said to have committed over 40 cold-blooded murders. No band of desperadoes and thieves ever infested the Red river country more terrible to the honest cowman than this terrible gang.

Melons and Squash.

A practical gardener makes the following statement: "A year ago as a test of a frequent practice among growers of melons and squashes, I pinched the ends of the long main shoots of the melons, squashes and cucumbers, and left some to grow at their own will. One squash plant sends out a single stem reaching more than forty feet, but did not bear any fruit. Another plant was pinched until it formed a compact mass of intermingling side shoots eight feet square, and it bore sixteen squashes. The last year a musk-melon plant, thus pinched in, covered the space allotted it, and it set twenty-three specimens of fruit; the most of them were pinched off. The pinching causes many lateral branches, which latter produce the female or fertile blossoms, while the main vine produces only the male blossoms. The difference in favor of a yield of an acre of melons treated by this pinching process may easily amount to a hundred barrels."—Farm, Stock and Home.



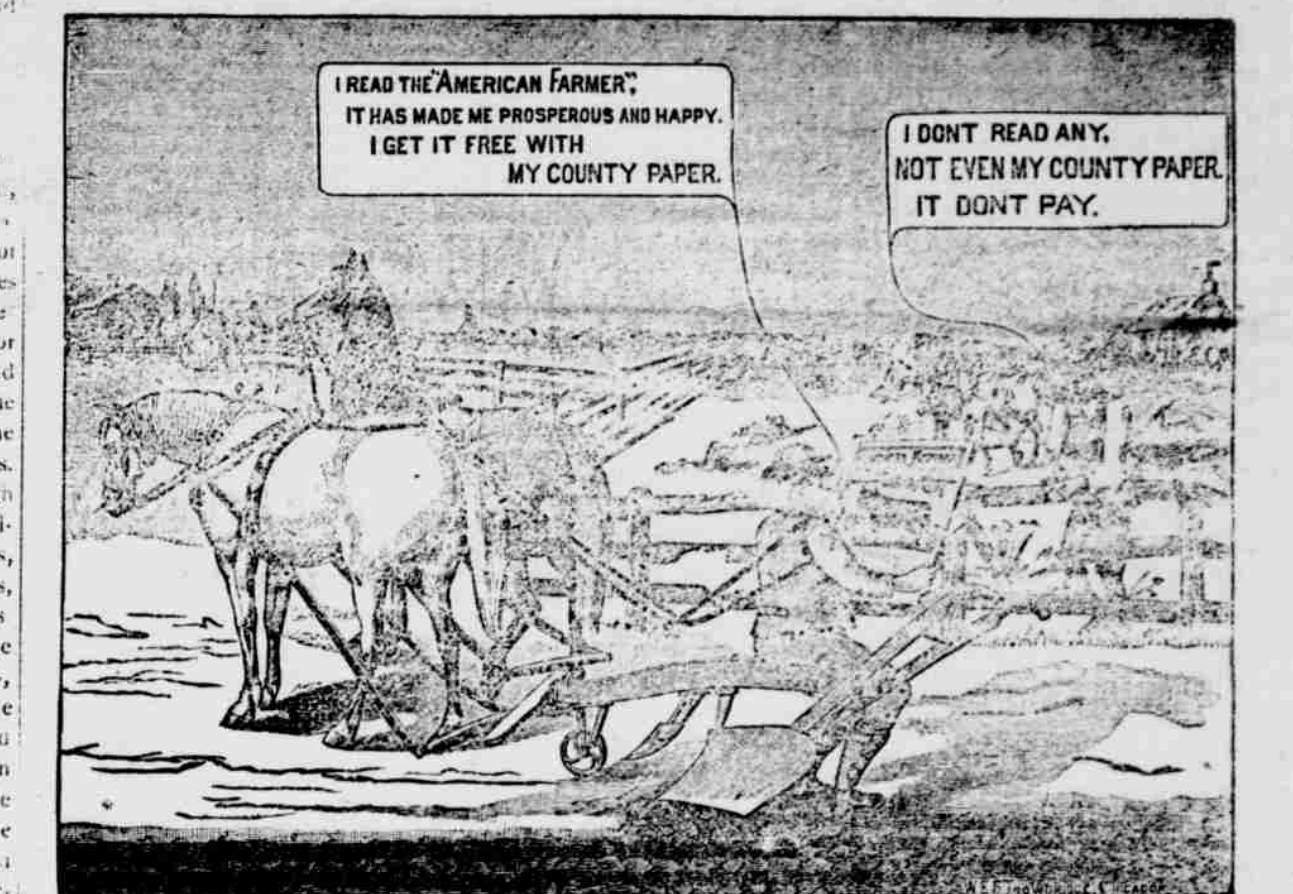
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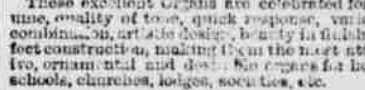


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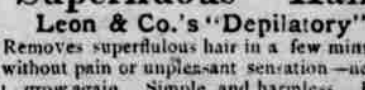


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